

HB 977 -- TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

SPONSOR: Eggleston

This bill changes the law regarding the use of TANF and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits via electronic benefit transfer (EBT) transaction. The bill adds pornography to the list of items that are prohibited from being purchased with TANF or SNAP benefits using an EBT card. A recipient must reimburse the Department of Social Services for the purchase if he or she makes a purchase in violation of these provisions and it is the recipient's first or second violation of these provisions. For any third or subsequent violation, the recipient must lose his or her TANF or SNAP benefits for two years. The bill prohibits a recipient from using TANF or SNAP benefits loaded on an EBT card at any ATM machine, to receive cash back on a purchase, or to otherwise access the benefits as cash. The bill defines "tobacco products" as cigarettes, cigarette papers, cigars, smokeless tobacco, smoking tobacco, vapor products, or any other form of tobacco products or products made with tobacco substitute containing nicotine. The bill repeals the pilot projects providing EBT cards to public assistance recipients.